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Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-09 IO-10 SAB-01 EB-07 ACDA-05

CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /088 W
---------- 075856
R 290659Z JAN 75
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4918
INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMEMBASSY SAIGON
CINCPAC
SECDEF
CINCPACFLT
COMNAVELECSYSCOM
CNO
AMCONSUL MELBOURNE
AMCONSUL SYDNEY

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 0621

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, PFOR, AS, US
SUBJ: DEFENSE AND FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES AT BIENNIAL LABOR
PARTY CONFERENCE

REF: CANBERRA 558

1. SUMMARY: SUB-COMMITTEE DRAFT OF DEFENSE AND FOREIGN POLICY PLANKS FOR LABOR PLATFORM, TO BE DISCUSSED AT FORTHCOMING PARTY CONFERENCE, CONTAINS NO SURPRISES AND POSES NO UNMANAGEABLE PROBLEMS FOR U.S. ALP LEADER IN VICTORIA PREDICTS SUB-COMMITTEE DRAFT WILL PASS SUBSTANTIALLY UNCHANGED, AFTER SOME DEBATE AND DISCUSSION. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFFS AT LUNCH IN MELBOURNE JAN 28 CLYDE HOLDING, LABOR PARLIAMENTARY LEADER IN STATE OF VICTORIA, GAVE US OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW REPORT OF DEFENSE
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AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS PLATFORM SUB-COMMITTEE ON LABOR PARTY

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PLATFORM TO BE ADOPTED AT FORTHCOMING BIENNIAL PARTY CONFERENCE.

3. REPORT, WHICH WILL BE MADE PUBLIC FEB 3 AT CONFERENCE, CONTAINS VARIOUS AMENDMENTS PROPOSED BY PARTY GROUPS AND BRANCHES TO PRESENT DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS PLANKS IN PLATFORM ADOPTED AT 1973 CONFERENCE. PLATFORM SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT ALSO LISTS ITS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DISPO- 858ON OF EACH AMENDMENT. TEN-PAGE DOCUMENT CONTAINS MUCH DETAIL OF ONLY MARGINAL INTEREST TO U.S., BUT ISSUES OF PRIMARY CONCERN AS FOLLOWS:

4. PRG RECOGNITION - COMMUNIST-CONTROLLED MISCELLANEOUS WORKERS UNION, COMMUNIST-ORIENTED AMALGAMATED METAL WORKERS UNION, AND VICTORIAN BRANCH OF ALP HAVE PRESENTED AMENDEMENTS RECOMMENDING THAT GOA RECOGNIZE PRG IN SOURTH VIET-NAM. SUB-COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION IS THAT THESE AMENDMENTS BE "DISCHARGED" (I.E., REJECTED).

5. OMEGA STATION - SUB-COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THAT THE RESOLUTION ON OMEGA ADOPTED AT THE 1973 PARTY CONFERENCE (NOTING REFERENCE OF ISSUE TO JOINT PARLIAMENTARY FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE COMMITTEE) BE AREAFFIRMED.

6. MIDDLE EAST - THIS WILL CLEARLY BE BATTLEGROUND, AS SEVERAL AMENDMENTS SEEK TO COMMIT LABOR PARTY TO SUPPORT FOR PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION. HOWEVER, SUGGESTED SUB-COMMITTEE AMENDMENT ESSENTIALLY REAFFIRMS 1973 RESOLUTION, WHILE CALLING FOR RESPECT FOR RIGHTS OF PEOPLE OF PALESTINE. INVITATION BY ALP LEFT TO PLO DELEGATION TO VISIT AUSTRALIA IN LATE FEBRUARY (SEPTEL) HAS CONSIDERABLY RAISED TEMPERATURES WITHIN ALP. AUSTRALIAN JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS, WHICH HAVE PROVIDED SUBSTANTIAL FINANCIAL AND ELECTORAL SUPPORT TO LABOR PARTY IN PAST, HAVE TAKEN STRONG POSITION AGAINST CONCESSIONS TO ARABS, AND THEY HAVE SUBSTANTIAL SUPPORT WITHIN PARTY.

7. COMMENTING ON PARTY CONFERENCE IN GENERAL, HOLDING SAID THAT HE ANTICIPATED THAT THE DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS PLANKS WOULD GO THROUGH MUCH AS THE SUB-COMMITTEE CONFIDENTIAL

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HAS RECOMMENDED THEM. INEVITABLY, THERE WILL BE DEBATE AND DISCUSSION ON OTHER ISSUES (THERE ARE SEVERAL EXTREME LEFTIST RESOLUTIONS CALLING FOR CLOSURE OF NORTHWEST CAPE, PINE GAP, AND WOOMERA), BUT HOLDING ANTICIPATED NO GREAT CHANGE ON THE PRESENT POSITION.

8. COMMENT - HOLDING'S PREDICTION OF DEVELOPMENTS AT CONFERENCE IS VERY CLOSE TO THAT OF MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AF-

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FAIRS WILLESEE (REFTEL).
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RECOGNITION, PARTY LINE, PROJECT OMEGA, COMMUNIST FRONT ORGANIZATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CANBER00621
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750032-0606
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750111/aaaaajte.tel
Line Count: 117
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 CANBERRA 558
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <03 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEFENSE AND FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES AT BIENNIAL LABOR PARTY CONFERENCE
TAGS: MARR, PFOR, AS, US, XF, ALP, PRG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006